

1-1-2002

Blud-Monath

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Recommended Citation

Persoon, Jim (2002) "Blud-Monath," *Grand Valley Review*: Vol. 24: Iss. 1, Article 14.

Available at: <http://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/gvr/vol24/iss1/14>

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Blud-Monath

And now after harvest comes Blud-Monath, the month of blood.
Which I rename the month of the crying of the animals.
There is frost on the November ground most mornings.
When the pail is kicked over, the warm milk doesn't seep,
just pools. The blood of the slaughtered runs cold
and drips in dark clots. The wind has a new bite, and the animals
feel this, I think, for there is more mewling and crying,
bleating and puling. The pigs scream. Even the crows
are nervous and stay away as my father and I walk
toward the shed with Herod's implements.